AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal comprising:

a first die member having a cavity formed therein;

a second die member;

means for imparting relative reciprocal movement between the first die member and the second die member to deform the blank of sheet metal within the cavity of the first die member;

means for producing a magnetic field to exert magnetic restraining forces on the blank of sheet metal to selectively restrain relative movement between the blank of sheet metal and the first die member during the deformation of the blank of sheet metal, wherein the means for producing a magnetic field includes a plurality of electromagnets; and

means for controlling the strength of the magnetic field to vary the magnetic restraining forces during the deformation of the blank of sheet metal, wherein the means for controlling the strength of the magnetic field includes a microprocessor for controlling the strength of the magnetic field produced by each of the electromagnets to provide different magnetic restraining forces at selected locations of the blank of sheet metal during the deformation of the blank of sheet metal.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The invention defined in Claim [[2]] 1 wherein the cavity includes an open end.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The invention defined in Claim 3 wherein the electromagnets are disposed in spaced relation about the open end of the cavity of the first die member.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) Method for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal including the steps of:

providing a first die member having a cavity formed therein;

disposing a plurality of electromagnets spaced about the cavity in the first die member to exert magnetic restraining forces on the blank of sheet metal for selectively restraining relative movement between the blank of sheet metal and the first die member;

positioning the blank of sheet metal over the cavity of the first die member;

providing a second die member;

providing means for imparting relative reciprocal movement between the first die member and the second die member to deform the blank of sheet metal; and

varying the magnetic field of the electromagnets to provide selected magnetic restraining forces from each of the electromagnets during the deformation of the blank of sheet metal.